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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 05 LONDON 001991

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/WE, NSC FOR BRADLEY

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TAGS PGOV, PREL, PINR, UK
SUBJECT: (C/NF) WHO WOULD REPLACE GORDON BROWN AS UK PRIMERE: A. LONDON 1939 B. LONDON 1704

Classified By: Ambassador Robert H. Tuttle, reasons 1.4 b, d.

11. (C/NF) Summary. As Gordon Brown lurches from political disaster to disaster, Westminster is abuzz with speculation about whether he will be
Talk of Ousting Brown Reaching Fever Pitch

12. (C/NF) A terrible by-election defeat in Scotland on July 23, in which a formerly rock-solid Labour seat with a 13,000 majority fell to the
How Would It Happen?

13. (C/NF) There are two ways to oust Brown. First, he could step down on his own, perhaps at the behest of a group of close advisors and party
When Would It Happen?

14. (C/NF) Before the catastrophic July 23 by-election defeat, uppermost on MPs' minds was heading home for the summer recess. The fact that Pe
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early October gives Brown some breathing space. On the other hand, Labour MPs now have a lengthy period to hear out their constituents' wrath w
The Candidates

15. (C/NF) In the order of frequency, and Post's assessment of their credibility as potential successors, below are the names we are hearing mc
David Miliband

16. (C/NF) Foreign Secretary David Miliband is a high-flying young member of the Government whose name inevitably tops "future leader" lists, w

17. (C/NF) Miliband's appointment as Foreign Secretary in June 2007 makes him the second-youngest UK Foreign Secretary ever. His appointment ce

18. (C/NF) Miliband certainly has the most high-profile portfolio of all Brown's would-be successors. Added to that, his Labour credentials are

19. (C/NF) Long viewed as too young or too reticent to challenge Brown, Miliband may be changing this perception. An op-ed piece he published i
Jack Straw

110. (C/NF) Could the party unite around caretaker leader Jack Straw, a wise old man of the party? In the wake of the
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July 23 by-election meltdown, the media was awash with rumors that 62-year-old Straw, currently the Justice Secretary, was being lined up by di

111. (C/NF) Over the July 26-27 weekend, Straw interrupted his U.S. holiday following widespread rumors that his supporters were collecting nan
Ed Balls

112. (C/NF) Super bright, relatively young, Ed Balls, now Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, has seen his star rise and fal

113. (C/NF) While his financial credentials and close relationship to Brown weigh in his favor, Balls has performed badly as Schools Secretary
Harriet Harman

114. (C/NF) Deputy Leader Harriet Harman, the only woman mentioned as a possible successor, is a relative policy light weight but an adept inte
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left wing.

James Purnell

115. (C/NF) Work and Pensions Secretary James Purnell is another strong candidate, although he is often described as Labour,s "next leader but

116. (C/NF) Purnell,s political radar is finely honed and colleagues describe him as astute and able. He went to work for Blair when Blair was
Alan Johnson

117. (C/NF) For many in the Labour Party, Health Secretary Alan Johnson pushes all the right personal buttons. Born into poverty, orphaned, and
Andy Burnham

118. (C/NF) On paper, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Andy Burnham,s rise through the party mirrors that of James Purnell. At 3
Jon Cruddas

119. (C/NF) MP for Dagenham Jon Cruddas is a wild card. Although not well known outside the party, he fought a brilliant campaign in last year,s
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Blair and Brown - may find that his lack of previous any ministerial experience counts against him.

John Hutton

120. (C/NF) 53-year-old Business Secretary John Hutton was until recently seen as another strong contender - until he upset the powerful and ir

121. (C/NF) While union fury won't particularly bother Hutton, who has always been to the right of the Labour Party and one of Tony Blair,s clc
Comment

122. (C/NF) Given the improbability that Brown will step down voluntarily, the chances of any one of this group of would-be successors, or any
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